



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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\$29,925 Settlement Reached With Service First Environmental

CYPRESS – Citing the need for strict enforcement to achieve and maintain compliance at all hazardous waste facilities, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it reached a \$29,925 settlement with Service First Environmental (SFE) for hazardous waste violations at its facility located at 18001 Irvine Blvd. in Tustin, Orange County. SFE operated as a hazardous waste hauler without appropriate insurance for pollution coverage from August 2003 to May 2006.

Insurance for pollution coverage is required to protect public health and the environment. If a release of hazardous waste occurs to air, soil, or water during the course of transportation or temporary storage at a site, appropriate insurance will cover the cleanup of the hazardous waste contamination.

Under the terms of the Consent Order (Order), signed on June 28, 2006, SFE must pay a penalty of \$29,925. As part of the settlement, SFE will get a \$5,000 compliance school credit when two of its employees obtain a certificate of satisfactory completion of hazardous waste management courses at the California Compliance School, (CCS) if within 185 days of the consent order.

The settlement stems from violations observed during a DTSC inspection of the facility on May 23, 2006. DTSC inspector noted the following:

- Transportation of hazardous waste at least 25 times from August 2003 until May 2006 without a valid registration issued by DTSC.
- Failure to maintain financial ability to respond to damages resulting from the operation of SFE during August 2003 until May 2006. SFE did not have the appropriate insurance for pollution coverage.

In addition to the fine, SFE has agreed to comply by not transporting hazardous waste without hazardous waste hauler registration or other authorization from DTSC. SFE will also comply with the financial requirements outlined in the Health and Safety code. A copy of the order formalizing the settlement is available at the DTSC website, www.dtsc.ca.gov

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.